

Canada designs new \$5 notes to fight color copiers

By Roger Boye

Canada has introduced new \$5 notes with sweeping design changes in an attempt to foil would-be counterfeiters using improved color copying machines.

The revamped currency sports extensive microprinting, a rainbow of pastel colors and enlarged portraits.

"So far we've had no major problem with bogus money," said Micheline Lefebvre, a spokesperson for the Bank of Canada. "[But] we know that sophisticated copiers have been developed and it's just a matter of time until they become widely available."

Canadian officials will issue a new \$2 bill this fall and other denominations [except a \$1 note, which will be replaced by a coin] starting next year. Presumably, few color copiers can accurately reproduce certain pastel colors or microprinting, which is readable under a magnifying glass.

U.S. Federal Reserve notes to debut next year will include two new counterfeiting deterrents—microprinting around the front-side portrait and a clear polyester thread embedded into the paper. The thread will be visible when a bill is held up to light.

• Uncle Sam's first-ever bullion coins have passed one of their final tests and now are scheduled for an Oct. 1 release, according to a United States Mint spokesman.

In mid-June, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts—an advisory body—approved designs for both the silver and gold coins, the spokesman said. Engravers will place the rendition of a walking Miss Liberty [first used on half dollars from 1916 to 1947] on a one-ounce silver dollar and the famous Liberty pose by sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens on four types of gold coins [that design appeared on U.S. \$20 gold pieces from 1907 to 1933].

Under present plans, the government will use private distributors to sell gold coins to the public. Individual investors will pay for the value of the gold plus a markup of from about 3 to 9 percent to cover production and sales costs.

• The United Kingdom has joined the United States in banning the importation of South African Krugerrands.

Last October, President Reagan halted imports of most of the bullion gold coins and the British government took similar action in late May. Both moves are in protest of South Africa's apartheid racial policies.